

TOP 10

REASONS to fund the Takoma Park Community Learning Center





FINALLY the Takoma Park Community Learning Center would be complete!



The Third and Final Phase of the Takoma Park Community Center is the addition of a gymnasium. We have a computer learning center, a senior room, an art room, a dance studio, five meeting/class rooms, a teen room, a game room, and an auditorium. But we don't have a large space for active recreation. **We're missing the gymnasium!**



With a gym, senior citizens won't keep hogging the court when the high school kids want to play after school.



Okay, that's not the problem! Most area gyms are in schools so there is no place to play during the day for seniors or adults that don't work 9 to 5. Seniors, in particular, don't want to play in the after school hours or on weekends when the teenagers are on the court, so they don't use the gyms at all.



Kids in the very full City after school programs could get some active recreation and not just do homework or listen to storytellers.



Parents (and even some kids!) like the fact that the homework gets done in the afternoon and that there are wonderful programs and art projects in the after school program. But a full day of sitting is too much—they need to run around!



A gym would allow the kids in the City's summer camps to play, even when it's rainy or very hot outside.



Okay, that's what the camp counselors want!



Our citizens are complaining that the
Community Center is TOO FULL !



It is—it's packed! The demand is huge: kids, seniors, people taking classes and using computers...they all share our small building. Our center is located within walking distance of three schools as well as apartments and homes housing 6,700 people. We have no large space to meet the need.



The people hurt by not having a gym are the most vulnerable residents—the seniors and the latchkey kids whose parents work long hours.



Many Takoma Park residents can afford to join a health club, sign their kids up with a team and drive their kids to practice 30 minutes away. But if money and transportation is a problem, there are few options available. Latchkey kids, and others for whom options are limited, need healthy activities near home.

Who Takoma Park Serves

- Density: about 18,000 people in 2.36 sq mi
- Owner households: 45.4% Renter households: 54.6%
- Race: White – 48.8 % Black – 34%
 Asian – 4.4% Other – 12.8%
 Hispanic (of any race) – 14.4%
- Speak language other than English: 31.6%
- Of the 4900 Takoma Park residents not born in the U.S.,
49.1% are from Latin America, 28.7% are from Africa
- Because three Montgomery County schools are located near the
Community Center, many children served by the City of Takoma
Park are Silver Spring residents.
- Within five blocks of the Community Center are two 185-unit
apartment buildings for senior citizens and disabled residents.

Takoma Park property owners want to help but just can't do it all by themselves—it's bigger than Takoma Park...it's all of us!



55 % of Takoma Park households rent...it's the minority of Takoma Park families that pay the property taxes to provide services for the whole community. We have new immigrants, lots of kids, the crime that comes from a location on three borders in an urban area. The costs are very high for a small town—and just too much for our homeowners as housing costs increase. They need to share the load with other Marylanders.

Police Holding Cells Need to Be Moved

The Grant Avenue entrance to the Community Center is on the left. This is the closest entrance to Piney Branch Elementary School, just 150 feet away.

The blue door is the entrance to the Police Department's holding cells. They will be moved to another location as part of Phase III construction.



Completion of the Center would move the entrance to the police holding cells away from elementary school kids.



One entrance to the Community Center is only 150 feet away from Piney Branch Elementary School. Unfortunately, this entrance is also just 22 feet from the entrance to the police holding cells. Escorting prisoners past young children and the general public is unsafe. And the language of the prisoners is not the kind of learning we want to promote!

Why Does It Cost So Much?

- Today's base cost of a standard gym, plus restrooms and other support space, site work, utilities, and other costs of working on an occupied site: approximately \$3.9 million.
- Add in the soft costs for general contractor, fees, bond, design contingency, cost escalation over 18 months, and construction contingency for a new total of \$6 million.
- Add in detail design and some green features and the cost is \$6.6 million.

Whew! But at least we, and you, know what the project will cost.

Our cost estimates are probably more accurate than most and incorporate the rapidly escalating costs in the construction industry.



We'd like to say that Phase III of our project would only cost \$3.5 million, as we had thought until just a few months ago. But it won't—it will cost about \$6.6 million by the time the project goes to bid. A recent feasibility study has been sobering, but now we know what will be required. What we're asking for is what we need to complete the Center.



It's good for Maryland!



Contributing to the Takoma Park Community Learning Center leverages even more resources to help Maryland residents. State funds helped kick off the project, and now Takoma Park taxpayers and others have contributed \$ 9.9 million to the Center. These funds are serving Maryland families in need—efficiently, safely, and close to their homes and schools. Please help us complete this project for them!

City of Takoma Park

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Councilmember Colleen Clay
Councilmember Bruce Williams
Councilmember Terry Seamens
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